



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives join "Mostly Music at Northeastern Illinois  
4 University" as they proudly recognize Eileen R. Mackevich,  
5 co-founder and president of the Chicago Humanities Festival  
6 from 1989 to 2005, and Northeastern Illinois University (NIU)  
7 alumna; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Mackevich is leaving the Festival after  
9 fifteen years, and on September 23, 2005, NIU will honor Eileen  
10 Mackevich for her immense contribution to the cultural life of  
11 Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, What began as a modest one-day festival at the  
13 Illinois Humanities Council, inspired by its chairman and  
14 supported by four of Chicago's leading institutions: the  
15 University of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Art  
16 Institute of Chicago, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, grew  
17 under the leadership of its director, Eileen Mackevich, into a  
18 three-week annual Festival drawing thousands to a veritable  
19 feast of lectures and performances from around the world; and

20 WHEREAS, The fifteen festivals under her direction brought  
21 together novelists, scholars, musicians, archaeologists,  
22 historians, artists, playwrights, theologians, poets,  
23 architects, policy makers, and others to offer presentations  
24 around a theme of universal interest, such as "Expressions of  
25 Freedom", "Birth & Death", "Words & Pictures", and "Saving +  
26 Spending"; and

27 WHEREAS, In seeking out ever more exciting programs, Eileen  
28 Mackevich "toured" the world from her desk at the Chicago  
29 Humanities Festival to meet and invite authors, poets,  
30 performing artists, statesmen, and politicians to Chicago to  
31 participate in Festival programs; many have been touched by the

1 vision and enthusiasm that for the past fifteen years Eileen  
2 Mackevich brought to her leadership of the Chicago Humanities  
3 Festival; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we join "Mostly Music at Northeastern Illinois University" in  
7 recognizing Eileen Mackevich's leadership, great energy,  
8 enthusiasm, and vision, and we commend her for her contribution  
9 to the field of the humanities; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Eileen Mackevich as an expression of our  
12 admiration and esteem and best wishes for continued success in  
13 all of her future endeavors.